



On Thursday, January 12, 2006, State Health Commissioner Judith A. Monroe, M.D. made the fourth of her 10 promised trips around the state to follow up locally on last October's INShape Indiana statewide Obesity Summit at IUPUI.

The follow-up meeting for Region 9 of Indiana was held at the Jefferson County Health Department in Madison, and was open to interested parties from the following 12 counties: Clark, Dearborn, Decatur, Floyd, Franklin, Harrison, Jefferson, Jennings, Ohio, Ripley, Scott, and Switzerland.

From 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. Dr. Monroe met primarily with local health department personnel, including the health officer from Jefferson County, to reiterate some obesity issues specific to health departments as well as discuss the state's pandemic influenza plan and respond to some questions and concerns about preparedness.

Following that, the meeting was expanded to include all those interested in obesity prevention, whether they attended the statewide summit or not, to keep the momentum and enthusiasm generated at IUPUI going locally on this very important issue.

Approximately 20 representatives from local health departments, hospitals, Purdue University extension offices, community wellness programs, the Indiana Public Health Association, and the Indiana State Department of Health met with Dr. Monroe for an interesting and informative two-hour discussion. In addition to briefly going over Indiana University Professor Dr. Lloyd Kolbe's obesity research and action plan again, which he presented at the statewide summit, Dr. Monroe also asked attendees to share some local best practices, inquired about planned initiatives locally, reiterated the need for strategic partnerships and networking, took feedback on the summit and its objectives, and promised to continue to make herself available to help combat Indiana's epidemic of obesity.

Prior to the meeting, Dr. Monroe toured the Jefferson County Health Department and had lunch with some of the staff members.